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N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OF

In re Application of:

Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.:

09/762,699

Confirmation No.:

8491

Filed:

May 10, 2001

For:

Methods And Apparatus For

Connecting Tubulars Using A

Top Drive

MAIL STOP AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Essama Omgba

Customer No.: 36,735 RECFIVE

JAN 1 4 2004

GROUP 3600

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** 

37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

William B. Patterson

Typed Name

Signature

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 8, 2003

benter 43/04 In response to the Final Office Action dated October 8, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 8, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/A0029/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

> Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

> > **RECEIVED**

JAN 2 0 2004

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700**